

Mentors guide search for manhood

► Black teen-age boys learn about conflict resolution and self-esteem in the Rites of Passage program.

By Elizabeth Leland

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

DURHAM, N.C. — On the inner-city streets of Durham, not far from the Gothic towers of Duke University, a national fight soon begins against teen-age violence.

There, with funding from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, black professional men will try to persuade black teen-age boys to leave the example set by drug dealers and TV hooligans and follow their example instead.

"What we're saying is, 'Your manhood should not be found when you pick up a gun and shoot somebody,'" said Arnold Dennis, director of the Durham County juvenile detention center.

As with smallpox and heart disease, the federal agency is working on ways to reduce the problem — and it chose Durham teen-agers as one test group. The CDC will study results of a mentoring program for black teen-age boys called Rites of Passage.

In the program, black men will tutor teen-agers in African-American history and self-esteem, conflict resolution and decision-making, and possibly help them get jobs.

The CDC will analyze how the program affects teen-age violence.

"We've basically ignored violence as a public health issue," said Jennifer Friday, a behavioral scientist and psychologist with the CDC in Atlanta. "We've not really evaluated programs in any systematic way to see what works."

Other prevention programs in the nation will focus on early intervention.

"It's clear that trying to intervene in early childhood is the way to go," Friday said. "Once a child gets to a preteen, preadolescent stage, some of their patterns of interacting have already been set . . . Violence breeds violence."

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

PART RECEIVED

Children's viewing time (4:00 to 9:00 p.m.) has become the most violent and bloody on TV. Which of the following, if any, do you find objectionable in television programs during this time - or at any time?

FCC MAIL ROOM

Type of Scene	children's viewing time	Objectionable at any time
A. Total nudity	1	2
B. Partial nudity	3	4
C. Graphic scenes of rape or violence against women	5	6
D. Lurid murder scenes	7	8
E. Obscene language		
F. Sex scenes with heterosexual couples		
G. Sex scenes with homosexual couples		

Type of Scene	Objectionable during children's viewing time	Objectionable at any time
A. Showing three naked couples, homosexual and heterosexual, engaged in deep kissing to "express their lifestyles"	15	16
B. Identical twins who	17	18

Below are actual topics of major talk shows including the "Oprah Winfrey Show", the "Phil Donahue Show" and "Geraldo". Which of these, if any, do you find objectionable during children's viewing hours - or at any time?

RECEIVED

Type of Scene	Objectionable during children's viewing time	Objectionable at any time
---------------	--	---------------------------

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

Type of Scene	Objectionable during children's viewing time	Objectionable at any time
---------------	--	---------------------------

RECEIVED

RECEIVED